

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /098 W
-----020156Z 128271 /63

R 010813Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5524
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 2289

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IS

SUBJECT: OIL EXPLORATION IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

REFS: (A) STATE 32309; (B) CAIRO 5230; (C) JERUSALEM 396;
(D) TEL AVIV 373

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED OIL EXPLORATION PROGRAM WITH ISRAEL
NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (INOC) ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR
FISHER ON MARCH 31. FISHER MADE POINT THAT AS A RESULT
OF BUDGET CUTBACKS, LAPIDOT (INOC'S DRILLING CONTRACTOR)
WILL BE OPERATING ONLY FOUR ONSHORE RIGS.

2. REGARDING CURRENT EFFORTS, DRILLING AT THE NEW HELETZ
SITE HAS REACHED ABOUT 1,200 FEET. ONLY WHEN THE 9,000
FOOT LEVEL IS REACHED WILL IT BECOME CLEAR WHETHER IT
WILL BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID THE GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS WHICH
CAUSED THE FIRST HELETZ DEEP DRILLING TO BE TERMINATED.
DRILLING AT THE NEW DVORA SITE HAS REACHED 1,000 METTERS.
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SHALLOW SHALE SHOWS, BUT NOTHING
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SIGNIFICANT. DRILLING AT THE ASHDOD 4 SITE HAS REACHED
1,500 METERS, AND IS STILL 1,000 METERS ABOVE THE
TARGET DEPTH. THE OFFSHORE DRILLING (TIL) IN THE MEDITERRAN-
EAN (ACCORDING TO PRESS, THIS RIG IS OFF RAFAH) HAS NOW
REACHED 4,000 METERS. FISHER DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE
ONSHORE SITE AT A TUR (YARON 1) OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT
IT IS A DIAGONAL DRILLING WHICH HAS PENETRATED 1 1/2

KILOMETERS FROM SHORELINE (HE DID NOT INDICATE DEPTH). HE NOTED THAT TWO OR THREE SHALLOW ONSHORE DRILLINGS ARE PLANNED FOR THE A TUR AREA. HE ALSO DECLINED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE OFFSHORE DRILLING (SABRA) IN THE GULF OF SUEZ. FISHER DISMISSED THE SUGGESTION THAT INOC HAD A JACKUP RIG OFFSHORE AT A TUR (SEE REF A) OR THAT INOC WAS ENGAGING IN DEVELOPMENT WORK AT A TUR (SEE REF B). REGARDING FUTURE DRILLING AT SADOT IN THE GAZA STRIP, THE LOCATION IS READY BUT INOC IS HELD BACK BY BUDGET LIMITATIONS.

3. AS FOR SEISMIC WORK BEING DONE IN THE JORDAN VALLEY BY TELEDYNE (SEE REF C), FISHER STATED THAT THE SURVEYS ARE COMPLETED BUT THAT RESULTS WILL NOT BE READY FOR ANOTHER ONE-TWO MONTHS.

4. RESPONDING TO OUR QUERY ABOUT A RECENT PRESS ARTICLE STATING THAT THE HELETZ FIELDS (ISRAEL'S ONLY OIL PRODUCER) ARE TO BE CLOSED NEXT YEAR, FISHER STATED THAT HAD THE FIELDS BEEN OPERATED PRIVATELY THEY WOULD ALREADY HAVE BEEN CLOSED. AT ANY RATE, HE SAID, RESERVES AT HELETZ WILL NOT ALLOW FOR MORE THAN ANOTHER TWO OR THREE YEARS OF OIL EXTRACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Reference: 77 STATE 32309, 77 CAIRO 5230, 77 JERUSALEM 396, 77 TEL AVIV 373
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